Enhancing financial participation of citizens via energy communities

Working Group on Financing | 08 September 2021
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Getting familiar with Hopin

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Getting familiar with Hopin

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Our agenda today

The perks of citizen involvement in local energy projects
Marie Kleeschulte, Climate Alliance and SCORE project

Plymouth Energy Community
Alistair Macpherson, Plymouth Energy Community

SCORE Pilot in the city of Essen
Kai Lipsius, City of Essen

The European City Facility: Decarbonisation in Brussels
Maria Zamburlini, Municipality of Schaarbeek
The perks of citizen involvement in local energy projects

Setting the scene
Energy at the heart of the Green Deal and the Just Transition

“Public acceptance is the key for successful local energy projects.”

“The success of our efforts to mitigate the climate catastrophe depends on our ability to ensure a just and inclusive transition.”

Would you agree with these two statements?
What are energy communities?

• Forms of **collective energy actions** that involve citizens, small and medium enterprises, municipalities and other local actors

• **Democratic** and benefitting the members

• **Empowering** citizens and consumers to become active parts of the energy transition
Purposes of consumer empowerment

• Energy communities are an effective instrument to increase public acceptance of new projects

• Energy communities are a tool to mobilize private capital for the energy transition

• Energy communities can lead to an increased flexibility in the market
An example of consumer co-ownership

Consumer Stock Ownership Plan (CSOP): Financing structure & phasing

Source: J. Lowitzsch, European Viadrina University Frankfurt (Oder); via https://score-h2020.eu
European legislative framework

• New European laws could be game changers: **Renewable Energy Directive II (2018)**

• Art. 21/22 RED II defines **new rights for renewable energy communities (REC)**
  
  • Rights to consume, sell and store renewable energy
  • Right to energy sharing
  • Municipalities explicitly mentioned as members of RECs
Barriers to consider – from a municipal perspective

• Reaching and motivating citizens, especially atypical consumers
• Identifying the right incentives to include citizens
• Cooperation with multiple co-investors and shareholders
Questions for the audience

Please complete this sentence:

Setting up an energy community would work / would not work in my home town, because...
Questions for the audience

Please complete this sentence:

Something we have not mentioned yet, and need to consider regarding the financial involvement of citizens, is...
Questions for the audience

Please complete this sentence:

The situation in my country/municipalities regarding the development of energy communities is the following:
What’s next?

Check out the #CAIC21 programme of the next 3 days!

Today

13:00 Networking and exhibition via Hopin
15:00 General Assembly for CA members

Join the Working Group on Financing via financing@climatealliance.org

Next meeting: December 2021/January 2022
Further readings and sources

• SCORE project [https://www.score-h2020.eu/](https://www.score-h2020.eu/)
• Joint Research Centre
  • Energy communities: an overview of energy and social innovation, JRC, 2020
• Community Energy: A practical guide to reclaiming power
• Climate Alliance - Working group on financing
• EUCF [https://www.eucityfacility.eu/home.html](https://www.eucityfacility.eu/home.html)